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花とゆめCOMICS

てるてる×少年

高尾 滋 9

花とゆめ COMICS

てるてる×少年〔9〕

高尾 滋

白泉社

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花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

才蔵の裏切りで、三島家を中心とする反御城組織に捕えられた紫信。紫信はそこで初めて、自分の父の非道を知る。一方、左介と千代は紫信が捕えられている寺に潜入。敵側の者であった才蔵の手引きで紫信の救出に成功するが!?

■花とゆめ掲載■

白泉社

●高尾 滋の本
——花とゆめコミックス——
人形芝居 ①〜②
スロップマンションにお帰り
ティア マイン 全4巻
てるてる×少年 ①〜③

作品かいせつ

才蔵が裏切り、反御城組織に捕えられた紫信は、そこで初めて、自分の父が奥・三島両家に行った非道を知る。一方、左介と千代は紫信が捕えられている寺に潜入。敵側の筈であった才蔵の手引きで紫信の救出に成功するが、才蔵は義人に捕えられてしまい!? 待望の第9巻登場!!

Hana to Yume COMICS

Teru Teru X Shounen

Volume 9

Takao Shigeru

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

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てるてる×少年(しょうねん)

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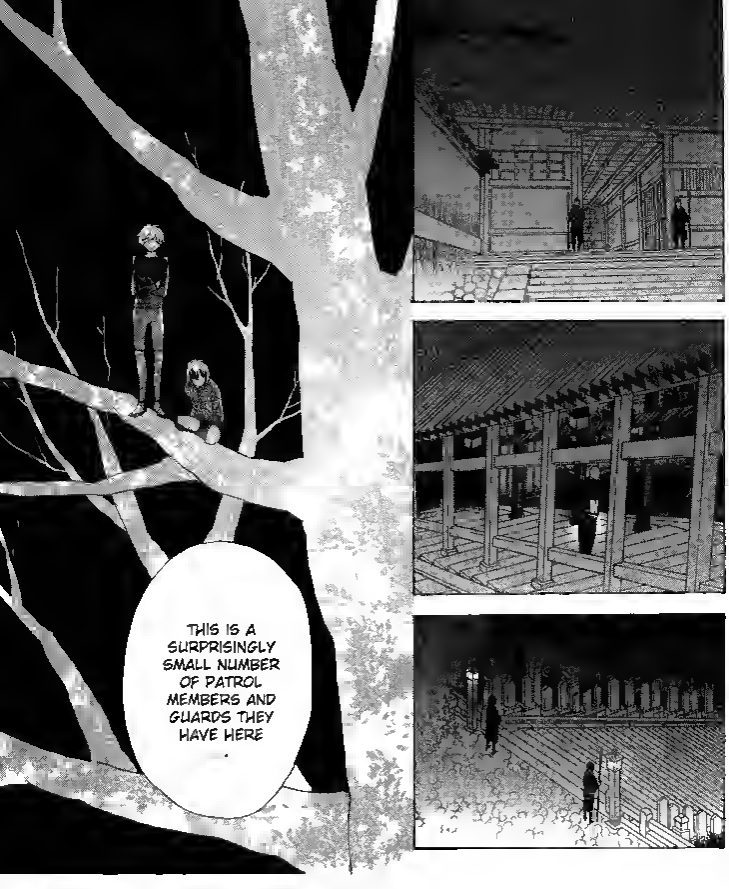
Chapter 49



こんにちは 高尾です。
早いもので もう3巻です。
このコミックスが出る頃は 本能寺も終わりかけです。

今回は 久しぶりに表紙 カバーイラストを描き おろしました。三島兄弟。
髪型は 今、平の美て 周に合わ なかったようです。

残念

いつも思うことですが スーツって何をめったら よいのかしら。以前 着んを もっともっと(10-21の人に しようとしまった(着て参照) 私です。
(女の人に聞きましょう 仕立ち何か
学ラン を描くのが一番 楽しいです。
体が だるい。

CHIYO -NEE ?
DO YOU THINK SAIZOU GOT CAPTURED ALONG WITH THE PRINCESS TOO ?
HEY CHIYO -NEE,
LOOKS LIKE THEY DONT PLAN ON MAKING A MOVE JUST YET,
PERFECT FOR US
MAYBE HE'LL SHOW UP IF THINGS TURN INTO A FIGHT
I WONDER IF OUR TRICK WILL WORK
GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PUT OUR TRUST IN THAT BOY
.....
HOP
WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN MAKE CONTACT BUT FOR NOW WE'RE WINGING IT
REMEMBER, RESCUING THE PRINCESS IS OUR TOP PRIORITY
ALSO, PREPARE FOR A SCENARIO WHERE WE WONT BE GETTING HELP FROM SAIZOU
SASUKE,
OPEN YOUR MOUTH
HUH ?
YEA, IT'LL BE MORE CONVENIENT WITH THE USE OF A NINJA DOG
WE'VE DONE ALL THE PREPARATIONS WE CAN
.....

CRRACK
PLOP
A-
A ROCK ..!?
FROM NOW ON MAKE SURE YOU REFRAIN FROM MAKING LOUD NOISES NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS OKAY ?
DON'T STICK IT OUT
WHAT!?
YOU HAVE TO STOP BITING EVERY SINGLE THING THAT'S PUT INTO YOUR MOUTH
HOW WEIRD
I'VE NEED TO LOSE THIS BAD HABIT OF YOURS
×△○□……!!
EVEN IF,
YOU ARE UNHAPPY WITH SAIZOU ...

GOT IT ..?
...
YOU STILL DONT BELIEVE IT HUH ?
WELL THEN, LET ME TELL YOU A STORY
NOW YOU SHALL FIND OUT THE REASON WHY WE,
WHY SAIZOU ...
ARE ENEMIES OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY ...
12 YEARS AGO THE INJUSTICE BROUGHT UPON OUR PARENTS BY THE LATE LEADER OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY

YOUR BELOVED FATHER,
MURDERED BOTH OUR PARENTS MERCILESSLY, RIGHT IN FRONT OF SAIZOU'S EYES WHEN HE WAS BUT A CHILD ...
THOUGH IT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF SPRING,
THE NIGHT AIR WAS WARM AND HUMID
I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY
I BELIEVE, THAT DOING SO IS ALSO A FORM OF LOYALTY ...
AS HAVE TO END THAT
AND

I HAVE THINGS TO TALK ABOUT WITH SOME PEOPLE LATER,
SO I'LL BE HEADING OUT NOW
...
SURE,
WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK ...?
YOSHITO
...
HEY THERE !
BACK FROM SCHOOL ?
FATHER
..
JUST NOW,
BA-DUMP
WE'LL BE BACK LATE SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THINGS IN THE HOUSE
.
WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT ....
ALRIGHT
....
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU
YOSHITO
PLEASE LOOK AFTER SAIZOU ALONG WITH YOUR YOUNGER BROTHERS

.....
THE MASTER
MAYBE ?
WHO COULD IT BE ...
NO, THE ONLY ONES GATHERED WERE THE OKU FAMILY AND THE MISHIMA-
ONLY ?
I WONDER WHO IT IS FOR FATHER TO BE SO TENSED AND NERVOUS LIKE THAT
BUT IT SEEMED LIKE THEY PLANNED ON MEETING SOMEONE ELSE
.....?
OKAY
A MEETING ?
CLICK
OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY ?
NO WAY ...

"WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU ..."
DID HE GO BACK TO HIS OWN HOUSE
SAIZOU ?
HIS SLIPPERS ARE STILL HERE ...
DID HE GO OUTSIDE ?
BUT ...
WHAT IS THAT ?
SHUDDER
!
WHAT IS THIS SMELL
IT STINKS ...

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

SLIDE

I'VE BEGGED YOU TO AT LEAST SENTENCE THEM TO CONFINEMENT BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISIONS ...!
BA DUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THAT WOULD HAVE SUFFICED FOR A LOWER RANKED NINJA.
I CANNOT ALLOW THE SECRET TO BE REVEALED ...
BUT I CANNOT LET IT GO SO EASILY WHEN THE OKU FAMILY, HEAD OF THE NINJA CLANS, AND THE MISHIMA FAMILY, THE ELITE NINJA CLAN ARE INVOLVED
THUMP
MY LORD !

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO THE CHILDREN OF THEIR FAMILIES ...?
I PRAY THAT THEIR PARENTS WERE TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT THIS MATTER,
THEY PROBABLY KEPT TONIGHT'S MEETING A SECRET FROM THEIR CHILDREN,
JUST TAKE CARE OF IT ...
BUT THIS ...
I HAD NO CHOICE!
I HAD TO ENSURE THAT THE SECRET REMAINS HIDDEN,
FOR THAT IS MY SWORN DUTY
B-BUT, THAT WAY
THE SINS OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY WILL THEN FALL ON SHINOBU'S SHOULDERS, IT WILL BECOME HER BURDEN TO BEAR !!!

WHY DID HE HAVE TO KILL THEM !?
WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD OUR PARENTS HAVE UNCOVERED ..?
I AM SURE ...
CLENCH
YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THAT DONT YOU ...?
I ...

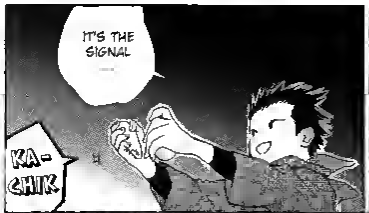
I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU KNOW ..
HAH ...
WHAT IS SO FUNNY ...?
AH HA HAH
HAHA
ME ?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS ...
OH RIGHT, THE KEY HAD MY CRYSTAL CHARM ATTACHED TO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE ...
THE KEY IS NOT WITH ME ...
I DONT HAVE THE ANSWER YOU GUYS ARE SEEKING.
I WONT BE OF ANY USE SO IT IS POINTLESS TO CAPTURE ME
YOU SHOULD RELEASE ME ...
TO THOSE OLD GEEZERS SERVING THE FAMILY WHO ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO DIVULGE ANYTHING,
YOU ARE GOING TO BE GOOD EXCHANGE MATERIAL ...
I CANNOT DO THAT,
IM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT SHOUKO -SAMA HAS GOME MISSING

HEH
HE HE ...
ME ..?
TRY NOT TO FORCE EVERTHING AT ONCE,
YOSHITO
SHIGETO ...
OH MY, YOU TOO ?
WELL I SHOULD'VE GUESSED,
WHAT IS NEXT ?
IS SASUKE GOING TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE SOON ?
SHOVE
BUT DID YOU KNOW ...
STOMP
STOMP

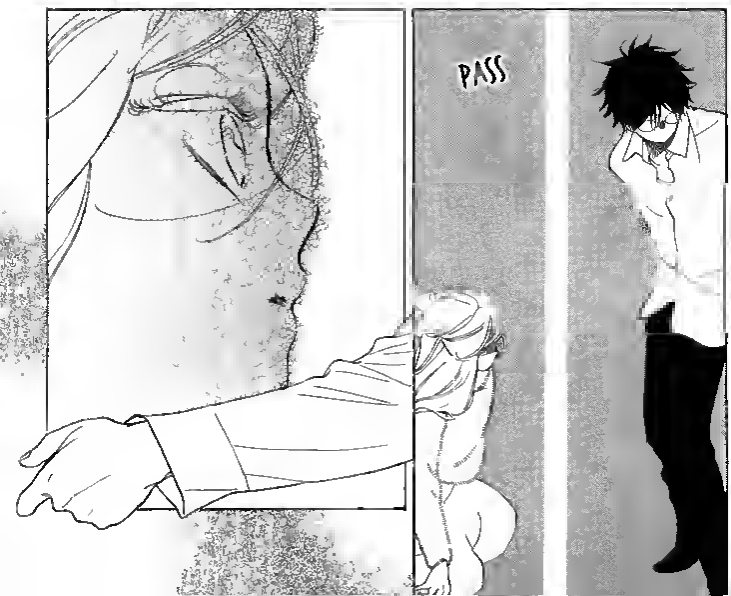
WE ACTUALLY HAVE MET QUITE A FEW TIME
THAT WAS A FACE I NEVER EVER WANTED TO SEE AGAIN IN MY LIFE ...!
WELL IM SORRY

ARE YOU SURE IT IS ALRIGHT TO LEAVE YOSHITO -SAN ?
HMM WE'VE GOT NOZOMI OUTSIDE ANYWAYS
I GUESS THE TWO OF US CAN JUST STICK TO GUARD DUTY HERE


IT'S THE SIGNAL
KA-CHIK

BOOM

WHAT WAS THAT ?
!!!


PASS

BANG
SLAM

SAIZOU !
DASH
WE'RE GOING TO RETREAT, PRINCESS !
CREAK
LETS GO YATSUFUSA
THE FIRE IS NOT TOO HUGE,
SEND EVERYONE WHO HAS TIME TO DEAL WITH THE FIRE !
THOSE ON GUARD DUTY DO NOT LEAVE YOUR POSTS !

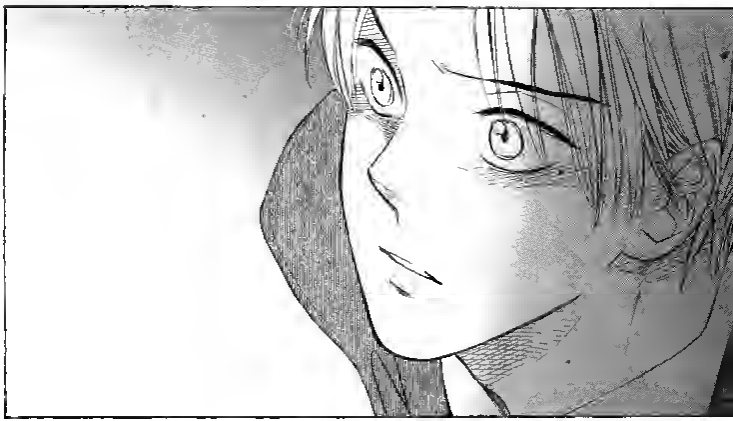
SA-
...
PRINCESS, WE HAVE TO HURRY!
THUD
FWOOSH
!!
YOSHITO -SAMA, UP THERE!

FWISH
FWISH
FLAP
FLAP

JUMP
DASH
SPREAD OUT ...!
GET THEM !!!

RUN!
PLEASE TAKE THE RIGHT SIDE, NOZOMI -SAMA!
I'LL GO AFTER YOSHITO -SAMA!
O-
OKAY!
YOSHI -NII!
DASH
!!
Hop
GET AROUND TO THE BOTTOM!

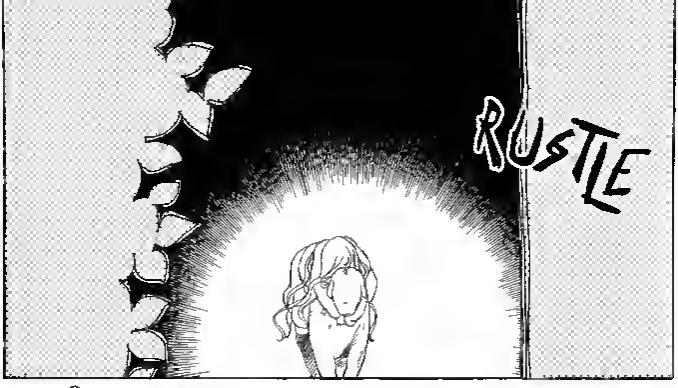
WHAM
FWOOSH
ZWOOSH
HOP
HOP
FLAP
FLAP
HOLD IT !

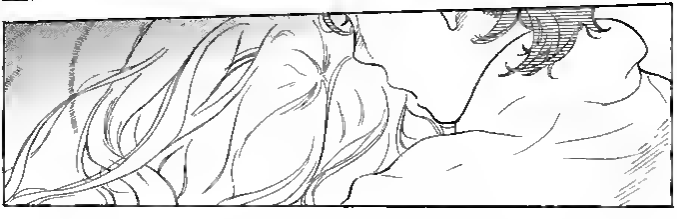


WHO WAS THAT UP ON THE LANTERN .....
YOSHITO -SAMA !
FWOOSH!
DON'T GIVE CHASE !
DASH
FLAP
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
WHY
..?

Chapter 50





先日、映画「ハリー・ポッターとアズカバンの囚人」を観に行ってきました。とっても面白かったです。

「ときめき」では、よく女子映画などで「大好きなこの人 ハリーとハーマイオニーのようなもの(異性)」との お言葉をいただきます。

しかし今回、私の目的は先生と囚人でした。うかつに本音をたいへんなネタばれになってしまうので書くことはできません。ムズムズ

しかし あの三巻のタイトル、原作を読んだ時も思ったけれど

「ハリーポッターと アズカバンの囚人」

と、どうしても書きそうになる。 たしかに困ったんです。

WHY ...!
Fwoosh

CLACK
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINE
THANKS TO YOU,
YOU LEFT ME WITH THE EASIEST ESCAPE ROUTE AFTER ALL
SHE IS RESTING IN THE NEXT ROOM
IS THE PRINCESS BACK HERE TOO ?

I'VE ALREADY SENT A MESSENGER OVER TO INFORM THEM OF THE SITUATION.
THEY WILL BE IN CHARGE OF MONITORING THE TEMPLE AND HAVE AGREED TO SHARE ANY INFORMATION WITH US AS SOON AS THEY OBTAIN IT
THEY INSISTED THAT WE RETURN THE PRINCESS TO THE MANSION IMMEDIATELY BUT

ANY PURSUERS ?
I'VE ALREADY PLACED GUARDS AROUND THIS AREA.
THEY WILL NOTIFY ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
I'VE ALSO BORROWED HELP FROM YOUR DOG, YATSUFUSA
STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S ABLE TO CONTROL A NINJA DOG WITH AN EXISTING MASTER.
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT !
WHAT ABOUT THE OSHIRO FAMILY ?

I HAD IT DELAYED
IT'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS TO SEND HER BACK WHERE THERE THERE ARE SPIES LOOMING AROUND

I NEED YOU TWINS TO STAY PUT HERE FOR THE TIME BEING,
YOU HAVE TO BE PATIENT FOR NOW
BLE-

NOW THEN

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT
THE FACT THAT SAIZOU HAS BETRAYED THE PRINCESS

HM ?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE !!
.....

ALSO, THE FACT THAT THE MISHIMA FAMILY HOLDS A STRONG HATRED FOR THE OSHIRO FAMILY
B- BUT THAT
ISNT THE MISHIMA FAMILY-
...

"WHY ..!?"
THAT'S RIGHT ...
IF HE REALLY WAS THE ENEMY ...
DURING THE RESCUE MISSION ...?
BESIDES
HE ENDED UP HELPING YOU GUYS RIGHT ?

SMACK
HE'S BETRAYED US, PLAIN AND SIMPLE
I DONT THINK THERE IS ANYTHING TO IT,
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING
STARE
Scary
PLEASE
JUST LEAVE SHINOBU -SAMA ALONE ALREADY ..!

GRIP
DONT GIVE ME THAT CRAP !
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT ANY WORDS YOU UTTER FROM THAT MOUTH OF YOURS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED,
IF YOU INSIST ON SPEAKING,
YOU SHOULD START WITH THAT SECRET YOU MANAGED TO GET OUT OF SHINOBU-SAMA
IF I TELL YOU THE SECRET, WILL YOU GIVE UP ON SHINOBU -SAMA ?
YOU INSOLENT FOOL !
YOU HAVE NO SAY IN THAT MATTER !
YOSHITO -SAMA,
YUURI
OH MY
SHOULDNT YOU LEAVE INTERROGATIONS TO ME ?

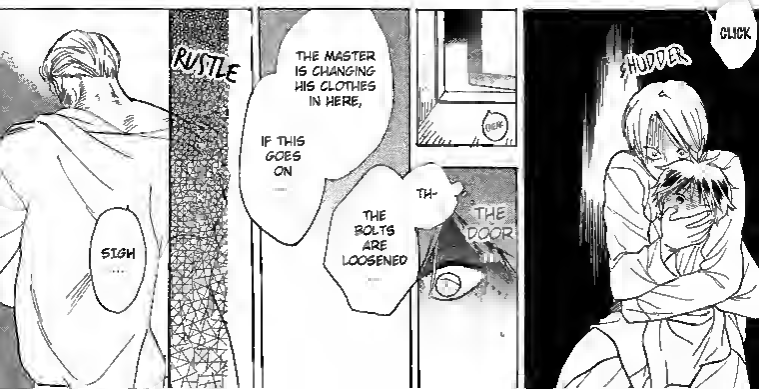
OKAY
STOP JOKING AROUND AND GIVE ME THE REPORT !
WE ARE ALMOST FINISHED WITH THE EVACUATION. THE ONLY NINJAS LEFT IN THE TEMPLE INCLUDE US AND A FEW OTHERS,
EVEN THE SPIES WE PLANTED WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS AND VILLAGE ...
IM CONCERNED ABOUT THE OSHIRO FAMILY'S NEXT MOVE ...
EVEN YAE WHO WE SENT TO INFILTRATE THE OSHIRO HOUSEHOLD REPORTED THAT NOTHING MUCH IS GOING ON THERE ...
EXCEPT FOR A FEW MESSENGERS GOING IN AND OUT OF THE HOUSE ...
NO ...
I DONT WANT TO BE THE ONE TO TAKE A STEP BACK.
THERE IS NO POINT IN HIDING SINCE THEY ALREADY KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE ...
SINCE CHIYO WAS INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE MISSION TOO
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SHE HAS INFORMED THE OSHIRO FAMILY ABOUT US
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, YOSHITO? SHOULD WE LEAVE THIS PLACE ?
WE SHOULDNT HAVE TO VACATE THIS PLACE WHEN WE CAN USE IT TO DRAW THEM IN
WE COULD HAVE LURED THEM INTO A TRADE TOO IF ONLY SHINO-HIME WAS HERE

GO AHEAD AND DO SO ...
DONT YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT SHINGU -SAMA'S SECRET ... HAS TO DO WITH THE ANSWER YOU HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ALL THIS WHILE ?
I PROMISE YOU THIS INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE USED AS TRADE MATERIAL WITH THE OSHIRO FAMILY !
YOSHI- ...
THINK HE IS GOING TO HAVE A DRINK ?
NO WAY ...

FWIP
FWIP
HM ?
WHAT ?
GLARE
WHAM
YOU LET THEM GET AWAY ON PURPOSE
AH
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT TO BEGIN WITH !
WHA ...!?

I DONT WANT TO HEAR EXCUSES LIKE 'I HAD TO WATCH OVER SAIZOU'
.....
TELL ME WHY DIDNT YOU GO AFTER SHINOBU -SAN- RIGHT WAY ...?
ARE YOU SAYING IT WASNT ON PURPOSE ?
FWIP
EH
YOU ALREADY MADE UP YOUR MIND ON THAT !?
DO YOU THINK HE WOULD HAVE MADE A RUN FOR IT IN THAT SITUATION ?
WHY ?
YOSHITO,
YOU'RE TOO SOFT ON SAIZOU
SO IM THE ONE AT FAULT ?

YOU'RE WRONG
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER


RUSTLE
SIGH
THE MASTER IS CHANGING HIS CLOTHES IN HERE,
IF THIS GOES ON
TH-
THE BOLTS ARE LOOSENED
CREAK
THE DOOR
SHUDDER
CLICK

SILENCE
STEP
THUD
THUD

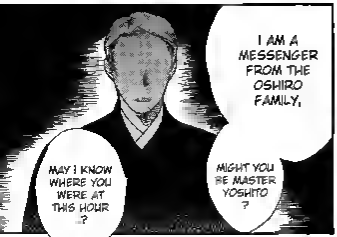
WE
WE HAVE TO ESCAPE FROM HERE ..
TH-
THEY MIGHT VISIT OUR HOME
TO CHECK IN ON US ..
I AM SURE SOMEONE
FROM THE OSHIRO FAMILY
STEP
SAIZOU
SAIZOU ?

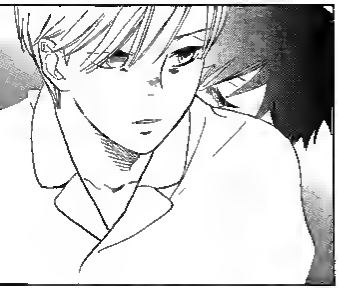
SAIZOU
ARE YOU ALRIGHT SAIZOU ?
ALL THIS WHILE, HIS EYES !..

ARGH
UWAAA
AHH
UNGH
Hic

MOMMY
AGH
WHY ..!?
WHY DID FATHER,
MOTHER,
AND SAIZOU'S PARENTS ...

I DONT RECALL EXACTLY HOW WE GOT HOME


I AM A MESSENGER FROM THE OSHIRO FAMILY,
MIGHT YOU BE MASTER YOSHITO ?
MAY I KNOW WHERE YOU WERE AT THIS HOUR ..?



WHY ...

THE NEXT MORNING
I WAS LOOKING FOR SAIZOU BECAUSE HE DISAPPEARED FROM THE HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,
I THOUGHT HE MISSED HIS MOM AND WENT HOME BUT
I FOUND HIM CRYING BY THE ROADSIDE ON THE WAY THERE
I WANTED TO COMFORT HIM,
SO I TOOK HIM OUT ON A LITTLE WALK
SAIZOU
SAIZOU DIDN'T REMEMBER A THING FROM LAST NIGHT
WHERE IS DADDY ?
MOMMY ?

RATTLE
UP
MM
WHO IS IT ?
YOSHI -NII ?
THE ONLY EMOTION I FELT FROM HIS CRIES THAT NIGHT, WAS 'FEAR'
I NEVER TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE REAL REASON BEHIND OUR PARENT'S DEATH
BUT EVEN THEN,
I COULDN'T HELP BUT FILL WITH RAGE FROM THAT GRUESOME SPECTACLE I WITNESSED; FROM THE FEAR THAT SUNK DEEP INTO MY SKIN THAT NIGHT
...
HIS MEMORY LOSS WAS ONLY OF THAT ONE NIGHT
...
HIS VISION
...

YOUR PARENTS LEFT THE VILLAGE FOR AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS
A GREAT TASK
THAT WAS KEPT SECRET FROM EVERYONE,
ORDERS CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE OSHIRO FAMILY
A VERY
HONOURABLE ...
YOSHI -NII ?
TO THIS DAY,
I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THE SOUND OF HIS CRIES ...

HARUMI
SHINO-HIME ?
ARE YOU AWAKE ? SHINO-HIME ...
RATTLE
RATTLE
GLIMPSE
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT SAIZOU ...
IT MAKES ME SO ANGRY ...

THAT'S NOT IT
I AM ANGRY AT MYSELF ..
NO
I FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO,
I CANT BELIEVE SAIZOU COULD BE THAT CRUEL
AFTER BEING LIED TO ..
BETRAYED
AND HURT SO BADLY

LIES
IT WAS ALL LIES ...
WAS ANY OF IT EVEN REAL ?
DESPITE EVERYTHING WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY ?
JUST SEEING HIM IN A DREAM,
MAKES ME SO HAPPY ...
I LIKE HIM
SHINO -HIME

I CANT STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH I LIKE HIM ...!
IT'S SO STRANGE ...
AND IM JUST SO ANGRY AT MYSELF FOR FEELING THIS WAY ..

I ...
I WISH I COULD BE A MOTHER -FIGURE FOR YOU ...
D-
DID EVERYONE DISAPPEAR ?
MOTHER
SHOU -NIISAMA ?
SHINO -HIME

CLICK

SO
WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING NOW ?

IF ONLY PEOPLE COULD FORGIVE EACH OTHER SO EASILY BASED ON THEIR FEELINGS,
NO ONE WOULD HAVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS

SO ARE YOU ABLE TO FORGIVE SAIZOU ?
OR
IS THAT IMPOSSIBLE ?

Chapter 51

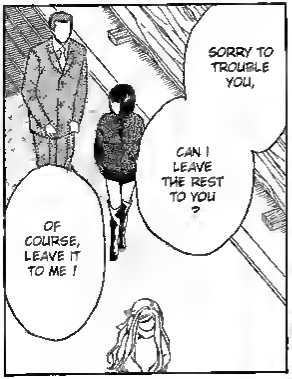
ARE YOU ABLE TO FORGIVE HIM FOR THAT
OR IS THAT IMPOSSIBLE
SAIZOU'S LIES ...
HIS BETRAYAL ...

FLAP
FLAP
MESSAGE
MISSING
MISHIMA SASUKE DISCOVERED IN THE MISHIMA RESIDENCE
ROPP ROSS
MISHIMA SASUKE DISCOVERED IN THE MISHIMA RESIDENCE

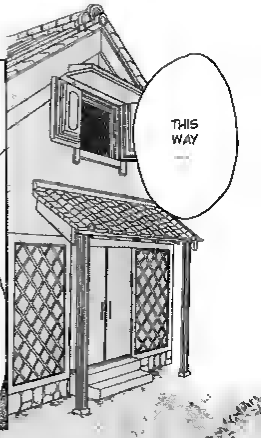
IN THE MISHIMA RESIDENCE ?
YEA
IT'S BEEN UNDER OSHIRO SUPER-VISION SINCE LAST NIGHT
LETS GO THROUGH THE BACK ENTRANCE
ACTUALLY I'VE NOTICED
THAT SASUKE HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE YESTERDAY
AND YOU DIDNT BOTHER TO LOOK FOR HIM !?
I THOUGHT I'D GIVE HIM SOME TIME TO HIMSELF

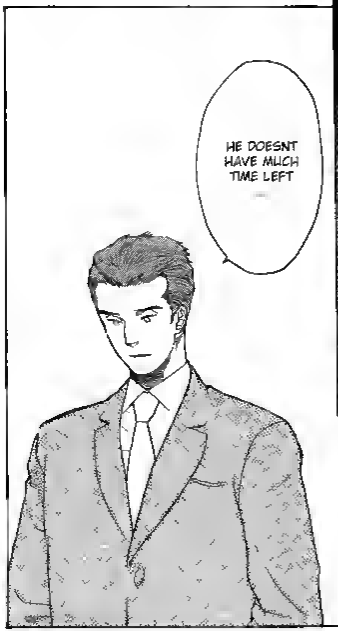
.....
SHI-
SHINOBU -SAMA !?
MISS KAKEI !
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT THE PRINCESS WOULD MAKE THE TROUBLE TO VISIT US PERSONALLY
NO NEED FOR FORMA LITIES
GIVE ME THE DETAILS
UHM
CHIYO ?
BEFORE MISHIMA YOSHITO
MY FATHER
SERVED SHOUKO -SAMA AS HER PERSONAL ASSISTANT
THIS MAN HERE IS TAJIMA
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
IT IS MY HONOR TO HAVE SERVED IN THE OSHIRO FAMILY
TAJIMA ?

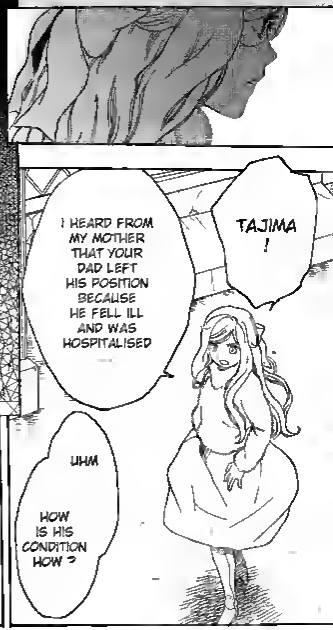
YOUNG MASTER SASUKE APPEARED WITHIN THE MISHIMA RESIDENCE YESTERDAY LATE IN THE NIGHT.
WE CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIM WHEN WE ENTERED THE PREMISES FOR OUR INVESTIGATIONS
ALTHOUGH I FELT BAD FOR HIM AFTER FINDING OUT WHAT HAPPENED,
I CARELESSLY REQUESTED HIS ASSISTANCE IN OUR INVESTIGATIONS
AND
HE SUDDENLY WENT INTO A FIT OF RAGE
HE WAS JUST STANDING THERE SILENTLY,
BUT I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE RESCUE INCIDENT FROM MISS KAKEI SO I VAGUELY UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION

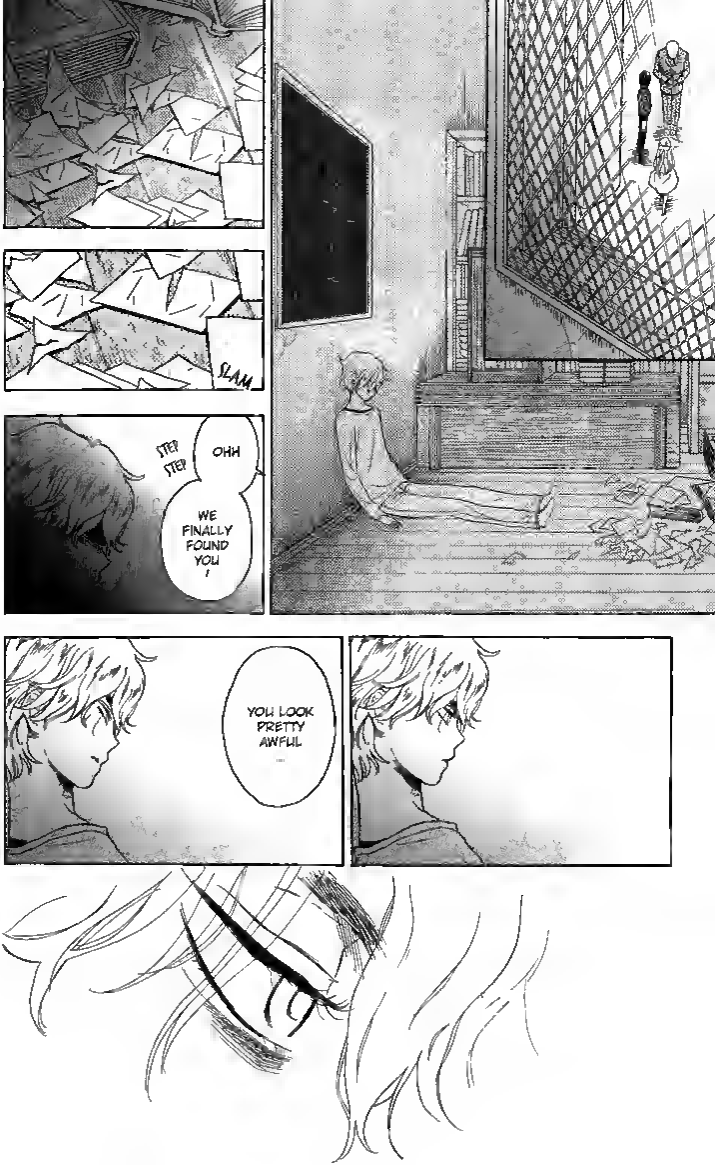

SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU,
CAN I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU ?
OF COURSE, LEAVE IT TO ME !

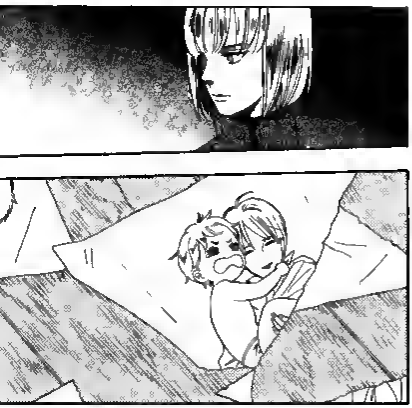
I SEE
SO HE LOCKED HIMSELF IN ?


THIS WAY


HE DOESNT HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT


TAJIMA !
I HEARD FROM MY MOTHER THAT YOUR DAD LEFT HIS POSITION BECAUSE HE FELL ILL AND WAS HOSPITALISED
UHM
HOW IS HIS CONDITION NOW ?

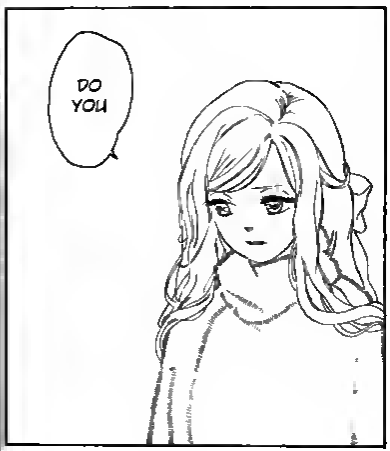

SLAM
STEP
STEP
OHH
WE FINALLY FOUND YOU !
YOU LOOK PRETTY AWFUL
...



GET OUT
YOU'RE COMING WITH US TOO ! SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY SPENT THE ENTIRE NIGHT HERE IN THE DARK ALONE
YOU MUST HAVE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO THINK THINGS THROUGH

OR ...
ARE YOU ABLE TO FORGIVE SAIZOU ?

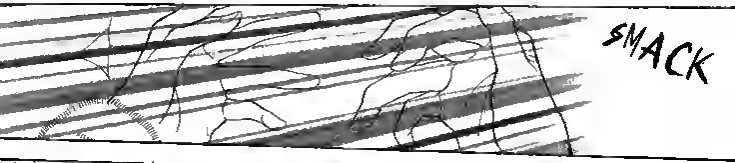
HATE YOSHITO ?

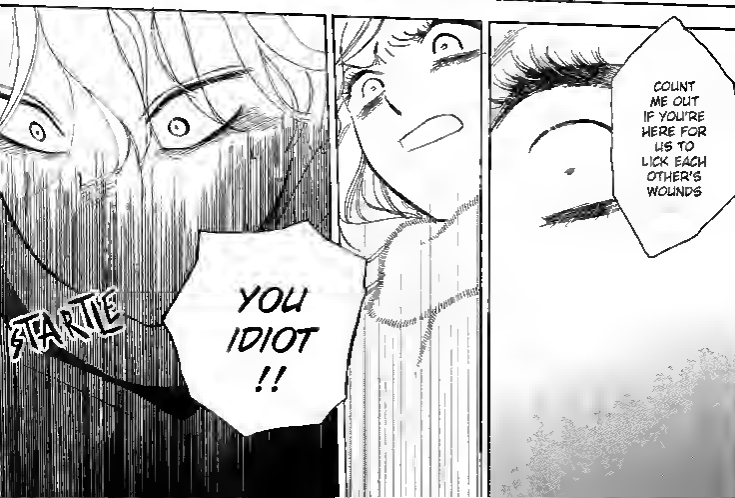

DO YOU

.....
ARE YOU KIDDING ME !!?

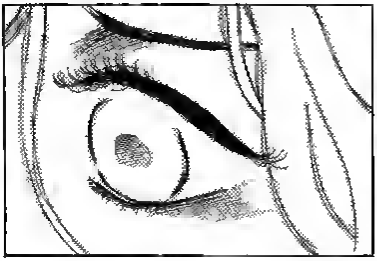
ARGH
I GET SO PISSED OFF WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT ...
IT MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL !
HAA ...
UNGH ...
I NEVER KNEW ANYTHING ...
I WAS NEVER TOLD ANYTHING ...
TREATING ME LIKE AN IDIOT ALL THIS WHILE ...
AARGH
WHAT THE HELL WAS I TO THEM ..!
ONLY ME ...
I WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUT

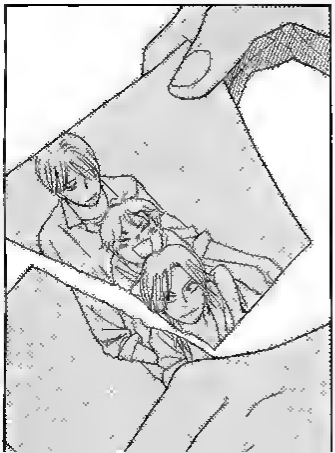
DRIP
DAMN IT ALL !!
DAMMIT
DAMN THEY WONT STOP COMING
IM BEGGING YOU, PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE


SMACK


COUNT ME OUT IF YOU'RE HERE FOR US TO LICK EACH OTHER'S WOUNDS
YOU IDIOT !!
STARTLE

GRAB





I HAVE A FEELING THAT SAIZOU IS GOING TO BEAT ME UP IF HE SEES ME LIKE THIS

THINK

SLIDE
"WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE IN"
CLENCH

SORRY
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE ?
THE CIRCUS ?
YEA
BACK THEN, THE CLOWN WHO ATTACKED YOU WAS WEARING A MASK RIGHT ?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL WE HAD LAST YEAR ?

I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE ...
CLANK
WHEN HE DROPPED HIS MASK
THAT GUY WAS YUURI ...
WELL YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF ...
STEP
I MERELY THOUGH HE WAS A SPY WHO INFILTRATED THE FAMILY
AND I REPORTED THAT TO YOSHI-NII
HUH ?
I SHOULD HAVE REALISED THE MISHIMA FAMILY'S REBELLION AT THAT MOMENT !

TOMORROW, THE MISHIMA FAMILY'S REBELLION WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO THE ENTIRE VILLAGE
SHINOBU -SAMA ...
YOU WILL NEED TO GATHER THE LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS NINJA CLANS, AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT
WITH SHOUKO -SAMA ABSENT AT THE MOMENT,
YOU ARE THE ACTING MASTER OF THE VILLAGE ...
WITH THAT SAID, WELL ...
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO BEFORE THAT ?

"WHAT IN THE WORLD SHOULD I BELIEVE IN ?"

"THE ONLY THING I BELIEVE IN ...
IS HOW HONEST AND RIGHTEOUS YOU ARE"

CHIYO !
I ...
I LEFT SAIZOU BEHIND AND RAN AWAY ...

YOU'RE GOING TO FORGIVE HIM ?
I DONT KNOW,
NOT UNTIL I MEET WITH HIM FACE TO FACE
BUT
I CANT STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM ..!
WELL THEN, SHALL WE GO GET HIM BACK ?

FLICK
ARE YOU GOING TO INTERROGATE ME?
I KNOW THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK ON YOU
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE AT THIS RATE
YOU'RE RIGHT
THEN MAY I PROPOSE AN EXCHANGE?
THAT DEPENDS

FWISH
THE VILLAGE ARRANGES FOR CHILDREN WHO LOSE THEIR PARENTS TO BE ADOPTED AND TAKEN CARE OF,
IT WASNT A RARE OCCURENCE IN THE VILLAGE
HOWEVER
YOU WERE ADOPTED BY THE OSHIRO FAMILY
THEY WANTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT YOU WITNESSED THE TRAGEDY THAT NIGHT

AREN'T YOU LUCKY THAT YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY, SAIZOU ?
YOU WERE REALLY FORTUNATE ...
AND OF COURSE THE OSHIRO FAMILY NEVER TOOK THEIR EYES OFF US EITHER,
SOON, A NUMBER OF TUTORS WERE SENT TO OUR HOME BY THE OSHIRO FAMILY,
IN ORDER BRING UP THE FUTURE HEAD OF THE NINJA CLANS ...
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE
HANDED YOU OVER TO THEM ...
YOUR MIND WAS FILLED WITH NOTHING BUT 'SHINCHI -S-MA' ...
YOU ...
WHEN I THOUGHT YOU HAD FINALLY RETURNED TO US

IF I HAD NEVER MET SHINOBU -SAMA ...
I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE GLADLY DIED FOR YOU
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE, WE ALREADY MET EACH OTHER
I HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE FOR SHINOBU -SAMA'S SAKE ...

SNAP
SCATTER
KA-CHIK
I MIGHT JUST RUN AWAY, YOU KNOW?
DO WHAT EVER YOU WANT,
THAT IS, IF YOU ARE ABLE TO...

SLAM
AS THE PERSON WHO BETRAYED SHINOBU -SAMA,
IT IS LIKELY YOU HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO BESIDES HERE

SHINOBU
-SAMA
....

Chapter 52

LITTLE [illegible]
WHO [illegible] THE ONLY
PERSON [illegible]
THE SHACKLES OF
A [illegible] PAST,
HIS EXISTENCE WAS
LIKE A BRIGHT [illegible] OF
[illegible]
[illegible] IN THE [illegible]
...

I VAGUELY RECALL SOMEONE TELLING ME THAT "EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE HAPPINESS AND LIGHT IN THEIR LIVES"
EVEN NOW, I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER
THE MOMENT OF MY PARENT'S DEATH
THAT INCIDENT WITH THE OKU AND MISHIMA FAMILIES
AND THE SUFFERINGS YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH
ALL OF IT
ARE THE SINS COMMITED BY THE OSHIRO FAMILY
DESPITE ALL THIS CAN YOU REALLY SAY ?
THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT THAT CHILD

THE MISHIMA FAMILY NEEDED SASUKE'S IGNORANCE TOWARDS THE TRAGIC TRUTH ...

I HEARD THAT YOSHITO-SAMA RELEASED SAIZOU
Y'KNOW ...
I REALLY BELIEVE ...
THAT THE PRINCESS IS COMING BACK,
TO GET SAIZOU ...
FOR SAIZOU ?
YOU MUST BE KIDDING
IT'S MY INTUITION ...
BECAUSE YOU SEE
SHE STRUCK ME AS AN EXTREMELY DIM-WITTED PERSON
PLOP

SHOCK
DASH
YUURI !?
BINGO !
NOZOMI -SAMA PLEASE REPORT THIS TO YOSHITO-SAMA !
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

RISE
FLINCH
SAIZOU ...
FWOOSH
GRAB
RUSTLE
YOU'RE GOING TO BE FOUND OUT ...

I CAME TO GET YOU BACK !
WHY DID YOU COME BACK HERE ...?
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT ?
BESIDES, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ...

FORGET THAT, YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE !
YOU'RE GOING TO BE FOUND ...
AGH
WHY DID YOU GO AND DO SUCH A THING ..?
SHINOBU -SAMA !

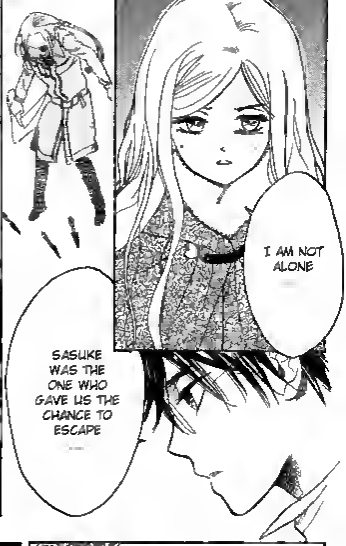
YUURI
ISN'T IT
A LITTLE TOO LATE NOW...?
STRIKE
THUD
CRRRING
IF GUYS YOU WANT TO TALK,
YOU'RE WELCOME TO DO SO INSIDE

DASH
!!
NGH
THUD
THUD
THUD
DAMN
WHAT !?
SHINOBU -SAMA ...?
HEY HEY THEY'RE MAKING THE FIRST MOVE HUH ?
EVEN THOUGH WE CANT SEE HER, CHIYO MUST BE NEARBY TOO
AND SASUKE -DO
SHOULD WE SEND REINFORCEMENTS IF WE ARE TO CAPTURE THEM ?
YOSHITO -NII, WHAT SHOULD WE DO !?

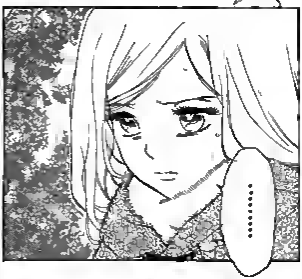
!
ARE-
ARE WE JUST GOING TO LET THEM ESCAPE LIKE THAT ?
.....
NO
ACK
LEND ME YOUR EARS, NOZOMI
GOT IT
PURSUERS ?
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PURSUERS BEFORE YUURI LOSES THEM
CONVEY THIS TO YUURI ...

HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HUH
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
.....
WHY DID YOU COME HERE ALL ALONE !?

I DONT FEEL IT NOW, BUT I SENSED CHIYO'S PRESENCE BACK THERE,
SEEING THAT THEY ARE NOT CATCHING UP TO US, THEY MUST BE HOLDING YUURI OFF FOR NOW
PLEASE SIT DOWN HERE


I AM NOT ALONE
SASUKE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE US THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE

SILENCE

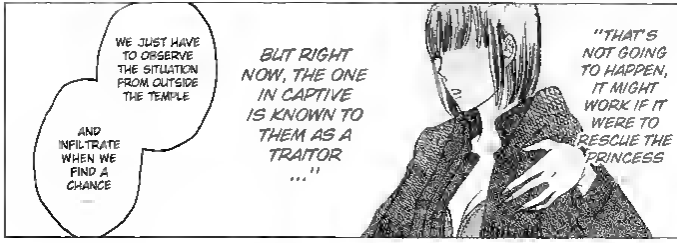

.....

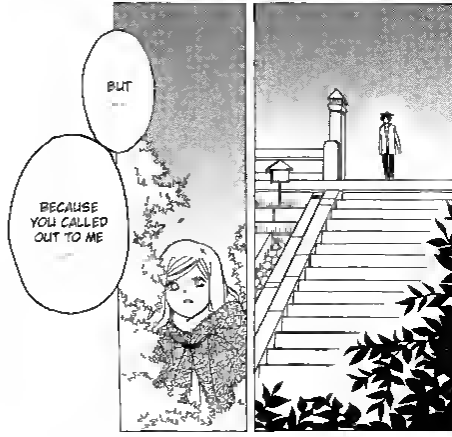
YOUR PLAN

.....

YOU WERE JUST ASKING ME THE REASON
FOR MY ACTIONS ?

"CAN'T WE ASK FOR HELP FROM THE OSHIRO FAMILY?"
CHIYO SAID THAT THERE WAS NO PLAN.
TO GET YOU BACK


WE JUST HAVE TO OBSERVE THE SITUATION FROM OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE
AND INFILTRATE WHEN WE FIND A CHANCE
BUT RIGHT NOW, THE ONE IN CAPTIVE IS KNOWN TO THEM AS A TRAITOR ..."
"THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, IT MIGHT WORK IF IT WERE TO RESCUE THE PRINCESS


BUT ...
BECAUSE YOU CALLED OUT TO ME

"SHINOBU -SAMA ..."
BECAUSE YOU CALLED OUT TO ME ...

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
RUSTLE
SASUKE ...
YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE YOUR PRESENCE BUT IT THE SAME TIME YOU'RE LETTING IT FLICKER ON AND OFF ...
FWIP
ARE YOU TRYING TO DISTRACT ME FROM GOING AFTER THEM ?
DID CHIYO TEACH YOU SUCH A WILY TRICK LIKE THAT

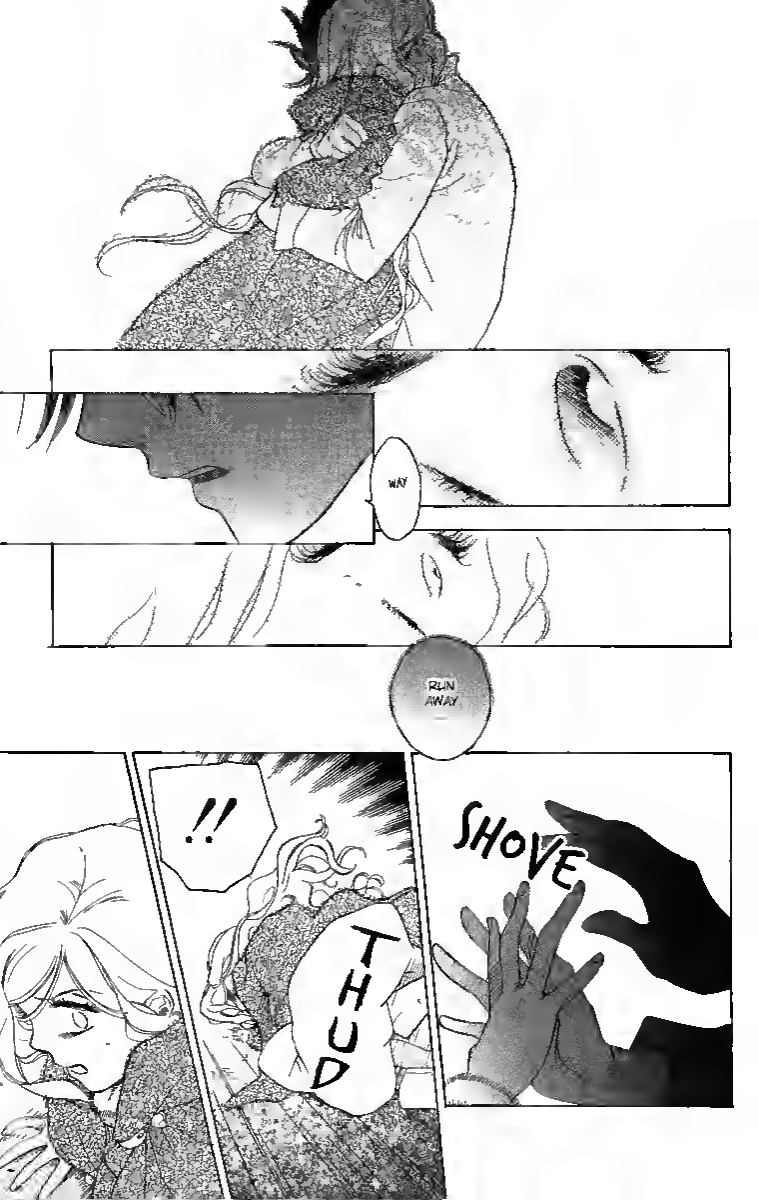
RUSTLE
ARE YOU SO SHOCKED BY YOUR BELOVED BROTHERS ...?
WHAT A FACE YOU HAVE ON ...
SH-
SHUT UP !
THEY LOVE AND VALUE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE
WHAT IS THERE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ?
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU UNDERSTAND !
SHALL I MAKE A GUESS FOR YOU ...?
HOW YOSHITO -SAMA ... HOW EVERYONE FEELS ...
YEA, I DONT GET IT

WELL THEN...

SHINOBU -SAMA
CAN YOU HEAR THAT ?
THE SOUND OF WATER RUNNING ...
SAIZOU ...?
CAN YOU SEE IT ?
IT'S THE SOUND OF THE RIVER FLOWING BELOW THIS CLIFF,
I DONT KNOW WHEN THE PURSUERS ARE GOING TO CATCH UP TO US ...
WE SHOULD PREPARE FOR YOU TO ESCAPE, EVEN IF YOU MAKE IT ALONE ...
IF YOU GO AROUND THE CLIFF AND FOLLOW THE WINDING RIVER, IT WILL LEAD YOU OUT OF THE VILLAGE ...

SAIZOU !!!
.....
YOU-
DONT TELL ME YOU PLAN ON SACRIFICING YOURSELF TO LET ME ESCAPE ?
THAT'S WHY I SAY YOU'RE TOO KIND-HEARTED ...
HAVE BETRAYED YOU, SHINOBU -SAMA ...
! ...
BUT YOU STILL SAVED ME IN THE END ..!
NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON !
YOU MUST NOT ALLOW YOURSELF TO FORGIVE ME ...!

THAT IS NOT SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DECIDE ..!
THAT DECISION IS MINE TO MAKE !


WH
RUN AWAY
!!
SHOVE
THUD

KA-CHING
HMPH
TOO BAD ☆
LOOKS LIKE YOU NOTICED ME
HURRY UP, SHINOBU -SAMA !

JUST KIDDING ...
SHOCK
THERE ARE OTHERS WITH HIM ...?
!!
THE REST OF YOU, GO GET SHINOBU -SAMA ...!
SLASH

LUMP
SAIZOU !!
SHUDDER

SWISH
CLENCH
!
DASH
SQUELCH

THIS CAN'T BE REAL
...
RUMBLE
THIS IS THE FATE OF A MISERABLE DOUBLE-CROSSER
ALLOW ME TO SEND YOU TO YOUR GRAVE ...!
FIRST YOU BETRAY THE OSHIRO FAMILY,
THEN YOU BETRAY THE MISHIMA FAMILY

!
DRAG

FALLS
YUURI
OH FINALLY
YOU GUYS MANAGED TO CATCH UP
AT THE BOTTOM ?
YEA
IM LEAVING THE REST TO YOU
UNDER STOOD
.....
WHAT A RECKLESS THING TO DO

Chapter 53

WHOOSH
BLOOP
BLOOP
ROAR
WHOOSH
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP

SOME
-BODY
...
SOME
-BODY
PLEASE
SAVE US
...

RUSTLE
SHINO...!
CAN YOU TELL...?
SHINO!
SHOU-...
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S ME, SHOU-NIISAMA...
NGH...
SAVE US...

AHH ...
SAVE
SAI-
NA
OU
IT'S ALRIGHT SHINO
YOU CAN LET SAIZOU GO NOW
WE HAVE TO STOP THE BLEEDING AND WARM HIM UP
DONT WORRY,
I'LL SAVE YOU ...
LET HIM GO ...

SLUMP
WE'RE GOING TO CARRY HIM THERE
WE HAVE TO STOP THE BLEEDING IMMEDIATELY
SHOUGO -SAMA !
YES SIR !
THEY'VE BEEN STRUGGLING IN THE STRONG CURRENTS FOR TOO LONG AND SAIZOU WHO IS BLEEDING OUT IS ESPECIALLY IN DANGER
BEING DRENCHED IN THE RIVER FOR SO LONG IN THIS HARSH COLD TEMPERATURE ...
IT'S AMAZING HOW SHINO MAN, GED TO RETAIN HER CONSCIOUSNESS ALL THIS WHILE ...
WE'LL TREAT HIM PROPERLY OVER THERE
BUT, SHOUGO -SAMA ...!

WE'RE GOING TO BRING HIM BACK!
FWOOSH
BACK TO SHOUKO-SAMA...

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU
I FOUND OUT WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD
SHIGETO-NI CAME TO VISIT ME AT MY ADOPTED FAMILY'S HOME
WHEN DID YOU GUYS FIND OUT, ABOUT DAD AND MOM
THEY WERE MURDERED ?
FATHER AND MOTHER ...!?

I WAS ONLY 13 YEARS OLD
DURING THE INCIDENT,
BY THE OSHIRO
I SOMEHOW SENSED THAT YOSHITO WAS HIDING SOMETHING FROM ALL OF US SINCE THEN
I ASKED HIM TO TELL ME THE TRUTH SINCE I FINALLY GREW INTO AN ACCOMPLISHED MAN
HALF A YEAR AGO.
I WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE OSHIRO FAMILY AS THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH
YOSHITO HAD A LITTLE CELEBRATION FOR ME

I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM
AND MANAGED TO FORCED IT OUT OF HIM AFTER DROWNING HIM IN WINE
TURNS OUT IT WAS THE OSHIRO FAMILY'S DECISION TO SEND A SON FROM THE MISHIMA FAMILY TO AN ADOPTED FAIMLY
SO WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND NON-NII ??
WHAT WOULD IT HAVE TOOK FOR ME TO BE PART OF THE CIRCLE
MY AGE ? PERSONALITY ??
I GUESS
IT IS PROBABLY BECAUISE,
I DESPISED THE FACT THAT I WAS BORN INTO THE VILLAGE,
UNLIKE YOU

SHIGETO-NII TOLD ME HE WAS ALMOST BEATEN TO DEATH BY YOSHITO-NII,
AFTER HE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT
IN FACT, SHIGETO-NII CONFIDED IN ME,
WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING YOSHI-NII
HEY, SASUKE
I SINCERELY HOPE YOU DONT BLAME YOSHITO-NII FOR ANY OF THIS
ALTHOUGH WE'VE HELPED YOSHITO-NII ALL THIS WHILE AS PERPETRATORS OF HIS SCHEME
YOU HAVE HELPED YOSHITO-NII MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE BY REMAINING OBLIVIOUS OF THE TRAGIC TRUTH

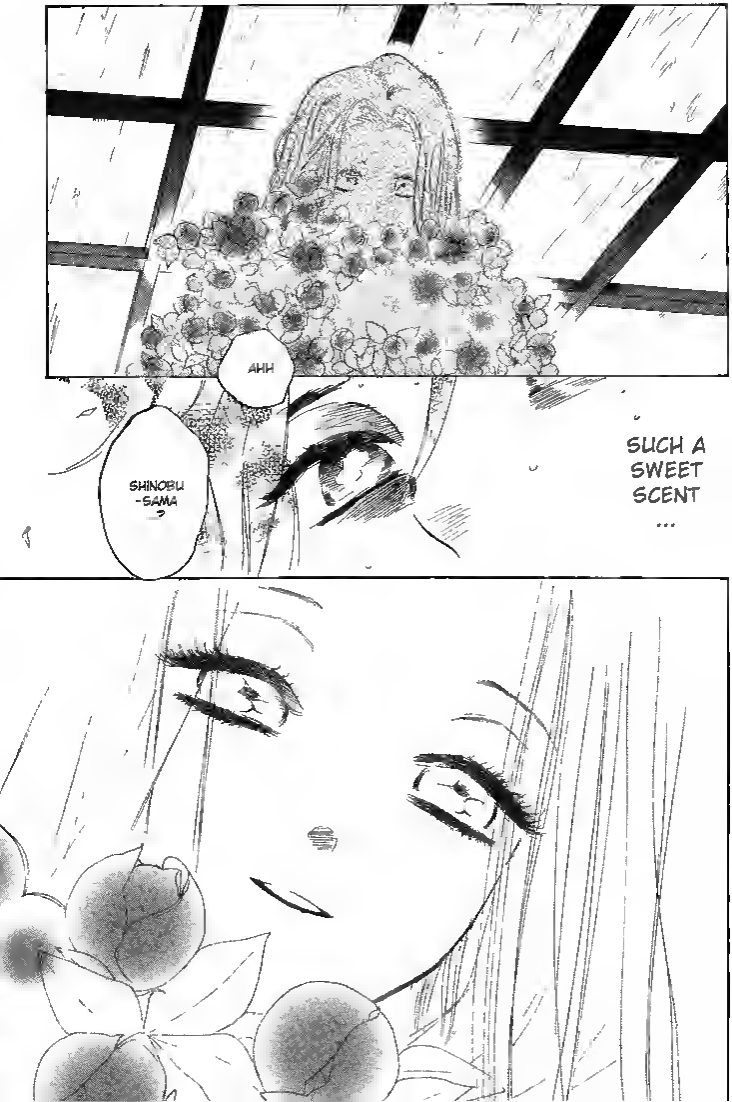
WHY DID WE CHOOSE NOT TO TELL SASUKE ABOUT THIS ..
DID YOU KNOW,
SAIZOU ASKED US THE SAME QUESTION BEFORE

I THINK NONE OF US WOULD BE ABLE TO SLEEP WELL AT NIGHT
IF WE EVER SEE HIS FACE TWIST IN AGONY FROM UNCOVERING THE TRUTH,
BUT SASUKE LOOKS JUST LIKE OUR MOTHER
IM NOT SURE IF YOU REMEMBER SAIZOU

IS APOLOGISE TO HIM
AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, THE ONLY THING I CAN DO TO MAKE IT UP TO HIM,
HE WILL SURELY FIND OUT THE TRUTH ONE DAY AND IT WOULD HURT HIM EVEN MORE THAT WE HID IT FROM HIM
I KNOW
THAT AS LONG AS WE DONT GIVE UP ON OUR PLAN
BUT

IT IS SOMETHING WE MAY NEVER FORGET, A BURDEN WE WILL ALWAYS CONTINUE TO SHOULDER
THERE IS NO THOROUGH WAY TO ATONE FOR YOUR SINS IN THIS LIFE
SO WE CARRY OUR SINS TO OUR GRAVE, RIGHT ?
JUST LIKE THERE IS NO PERFECT WAY TO PIECE SOMETHING BACK TOGETHER ONCE YOU LOSE IT
THAT'S SOUNDS TOUGH
YOU COULD ALWAYS FIND A RELIGION TO DO SOME SOUL-SEARCHING ...?

IF THERE EVEN IS A GOD TO PRAY TO ...
STARTLE
WHERE AM I ...?
GASP
UGH


AHH
SHINOBU -SAMA ?
SUCH A SWEET SCENT ...

OFF

DONT YOU WANT TO KNOW TOO ?
YOU KNOW YOSHITO-NII WONT STOP UNTIL HE EXPOSES IT ...
DONT YOU WANT TO BE WITH ALL OF US ...?
|

THIS SECRET KNOWN ONLY TO MEMBERS OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY ...

OR THE OSHIRO FAMILY ..?
THE MISHIMA FAMILY
WHICH SIDE WOULD YOU CHOOSE ?
OR SHOULD I JUST,
BRING YOU BACK WITH ME RIGHT NOW ...?

STEP
KA-
CHIK

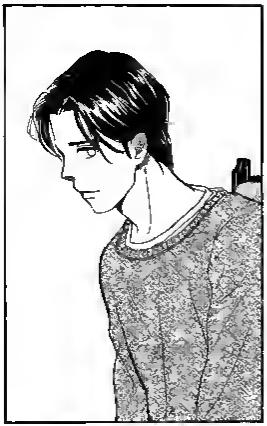
HEY THERE
HOW IS SHE DOING ?
SHE HAS FINALLY CALMED DOWN,
AND HER BODY TEMPERATURE IS BACK TO NORMAL

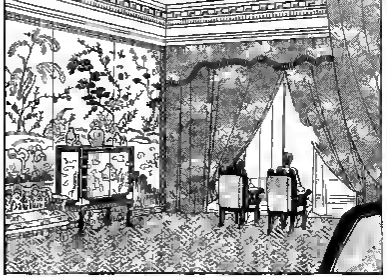
THANK GOODNESS ....
HOW IS SAIZOU ....?

THE MEDICINE IS TAKING IT'S EFFECT NOW AND HE IS FAST ASLEEP

SHOU-...
ALTHOUGH THE WOUND IS LARGE THE CUT ISNT ACTUALLY VERY DEEP
HIS ACTUAL BLOOD LOSS IS LESS THAN I EXPECTED

THE FEVER INDUCED BY HIS INJURIES HAS ALSO STARTED TO GO DOWN
I DONT THINK WE HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
...
YOUR FACE IS PALE
...
YOU WERE UP THE WHOLE NIGHT WATCHING OVER SHINO RIGHT ?
I'LL TAKE OVER FOR YOU HERE SO GO ON AND GET SOME REST
...

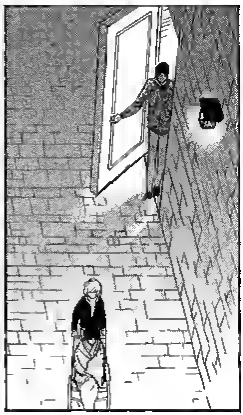




SLUMP

PLEASE TAKE SHOUKO -SAN BACK TO HER ROOM

SHUT

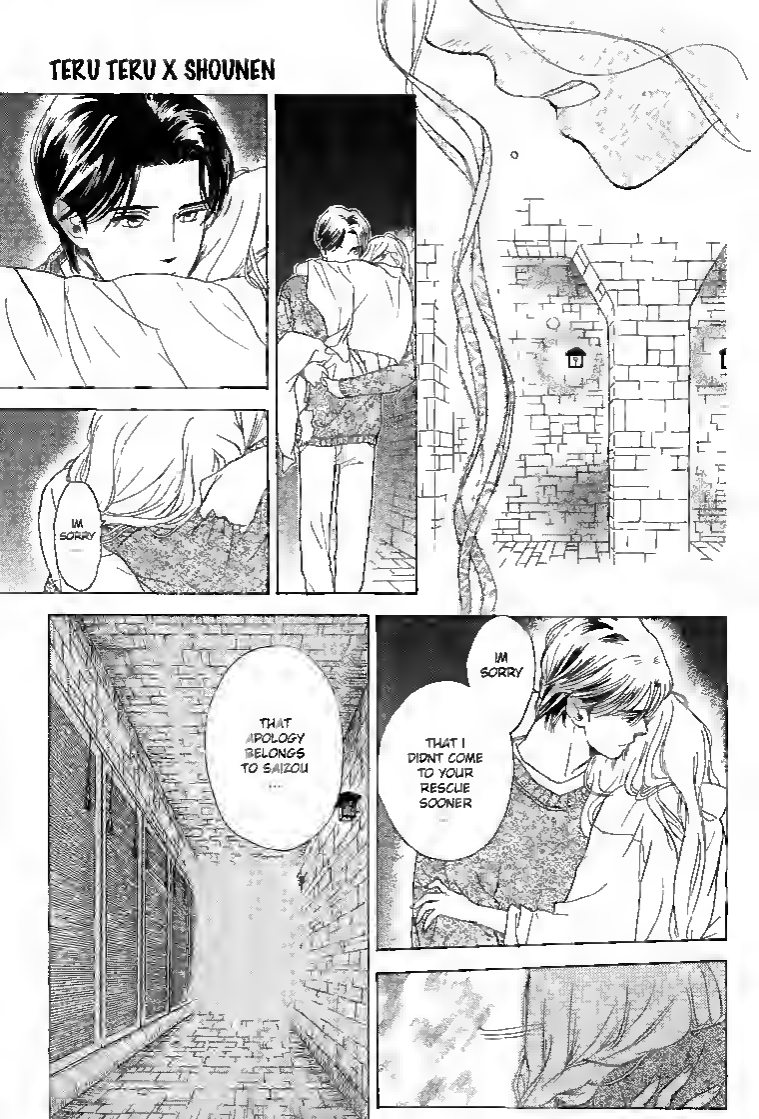


SA
...
SHHH

HE BLED OUT REALLY BADLY
ON TOP OF THAT HE WAS THRUST INTO FREEZING COLD WATER AND WASHED AWAY BY THE STRONG CURRENTS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY
IT WOULD TAKE A MIRACLE FOR HIM TO RECOVER
HIS LACERATION MEASURES BEYOND 30 CENTIMETERS IN LENGTH

WHERE IS SAIZOU ?
SA
SHOU -NIISAMA ...
WHERE IS SAIZOU !?
SAI- ...
NO
SAIZOU
.....!
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND ...

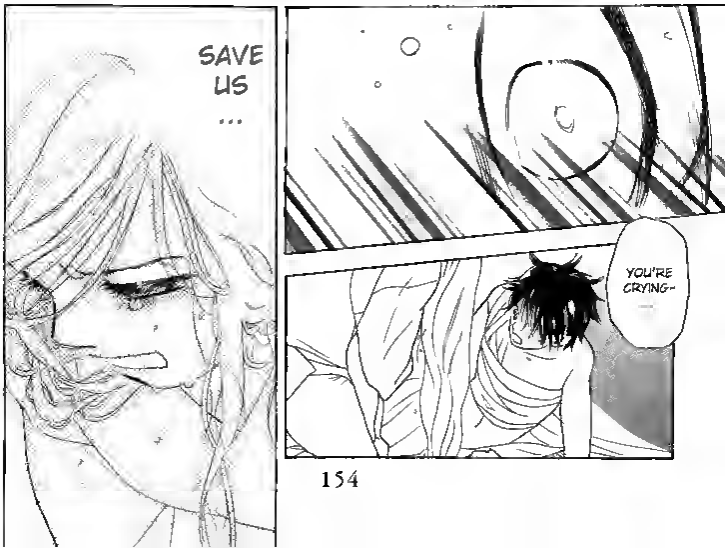
HOW LUCKY YOU GUYS ARE ...
HE IS FINE
LIFT


IM SORRY
IM SORRY
THAT I DIDNT COME TO YOUR RESCUE SOONER
THAT APOLOGY BELONGS TO SAIZOU ...

SLAM
FLOWERS ?
SHINOBU -SAMA ...?

SHINOBU -SAMA
YOUR INJURIES ?
NONE
.....
NGH
SAIZOU ?
THANK GOD ...

DOES IT HURT...?
NO...
IT'S AMAZING HOW PAINLESS THE WOUND IS...
SHINOBU-SAMA...?


SAVE US...
YOU'RE CRYING-...

BUT HE CAN'T BRING HIMSELF TO LET GO OF ME ...
HE GOT HURT BECAUSE OF ME ...
FORGIVE ME ...
SOMEBODY PLEASE ...
FORGIVE ME ...
TELL ME HOW I CAN HELP SAIZOU ...

WHO BETRAYED ME ...
FOR FORGIVING YOU ...
I WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE ...
PLEASE ...

Chapter 54

FORGIVE ME FOR WANTING TO OVERLOOK YOUR BETRAYAL ...

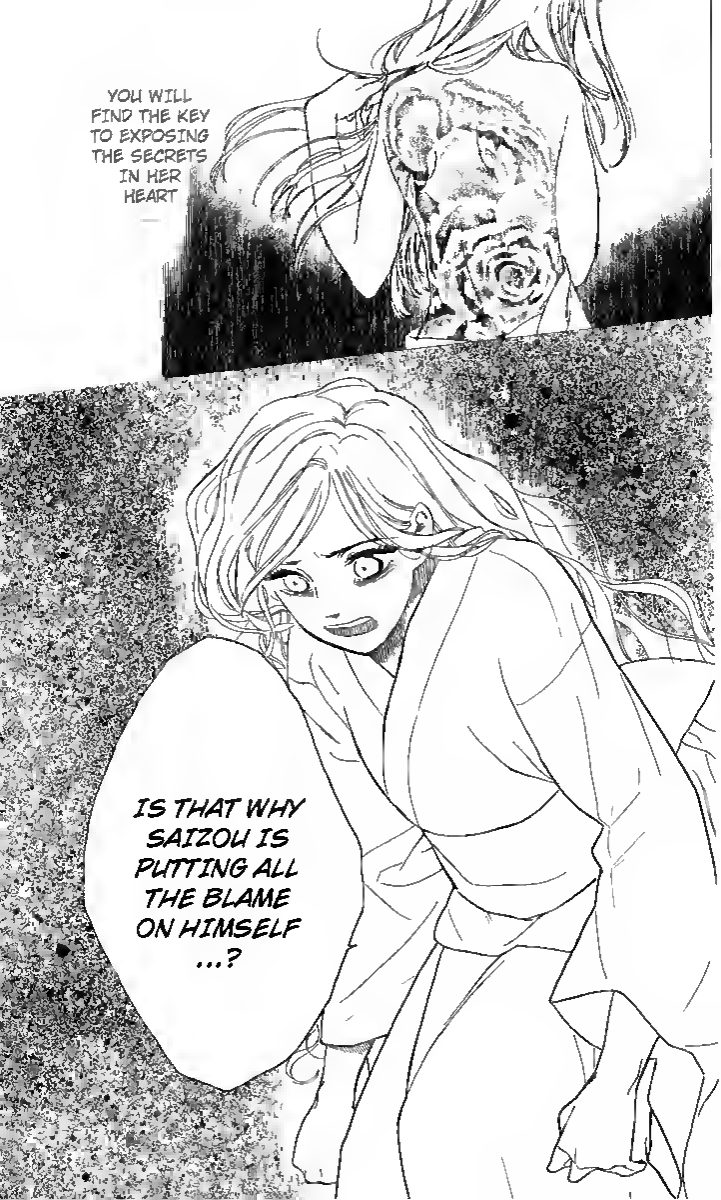
WHY DO YOU NOT BLAME ME FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE
HK
UGH
SOB
HIC
WHOOSH

SAIZOU ...!
Y- YOUR WOUND ...
DOES IT HURT ?
SOME-BODY ..!
SOMEONE PLEASE !
STAGGER

THEY WILL PROBABLY TRANSFER ME AS SOON AS MY TERM EXPIRES AT MY CURRENT OFFICE
WHAT A LUCKY OMEN RIGHT AFTER THE NEW YEAR
SO I HEARD YOU'RE GOING TO FILL THE ROLE OF SHOUKO -SAMA'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT ?
SHOULD YOU REJOICE IN YOUR PROMOTION ?
TO THE OSHIRO FAMILY WHO ARE PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE TRUTH, OUR FAMILY IS LIKE A BOMB WAITING TO EXPLODE
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THEY WOULD WANT TO KEEP US AS CLOSE TO THEM AS POSSIBLE
I FOR ONE,
AM NOT GOING TO LET THIS CHANCE SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS

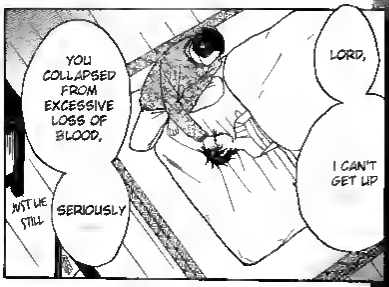
WE HAVE TO PENETRATE THEIR STRONG-HOLD
AND FOR THAT WE CANNOT GIVE UP ANY CHANCES, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT THEY ARE TO EXPOSE THEIR WEAKNESS
SAIZOU
WE'RE SENDING YOU TO SHINOBU -SAMA
STAY WITH HER AS A BODYGUARD AND SLOWLY GAIN HER TRUST
...
SPY ON HER
...
TRY TO GET INFORMATION OUT OF HER
AND EXPOSE HER
...
BEFORE SAIZOU APPEARED, HER BODYGUARDS WERE ALL SECRETLY ASSIGNED BY THE OSHIRO FAMILY.
THEY WERE MOSTLY STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY WHO DISGUISED THEMSELVES AS HER NEIGHBOURS WHILE WATCHING OVER HER FROM A DISTANCE

THEY WANTED TO ELECT A NEW BODYGUARD WHO COULD STAY CLOSE TO HER SIDE
BUT LAST YEAR, MANY PEOPLE BEGUN TO RAISE DOUBTS AND QUESTIONED THE EXISTENCE OF THESE BODYGUARDS WHO HIDE IN THE SHADOWS
SINCE THEY ALREADY HAD NOZOMI ON THE OUTSIDE, ALL YOSHITO NEEDED NEXT WAS AN EXCUSE TO SEND SAIZOU IN
SAIZOU ...
FOR HER TO BE ATTACKED BY ONE OF US
AS A YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO BEARS THE LINEAGE OF AN ELITE NINJA CLAN
ADDED TO THE FACT HE WAS RAISED WITHIN THE FAMILY HE WAS NO DOUBT THE IDEAL PERSON FOR THE JOB
AND TO BE SAVED BY ONE OF US ...
WHEN SHE IS CORNERED ...
THAT IS WHERE YOU WILL GAIN HER TRUST AS HER RESCUER ...

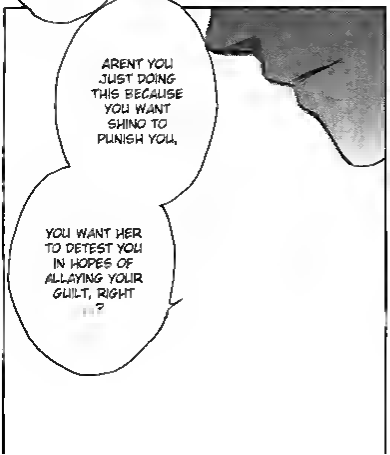

YOU WILL FIND THE KEY TO EXPOSING THE SECRETS IN HER HEART
IS THAT WHY SAIZOU IS PUTTING ALL THE BLAME ON HIMSELF ...?

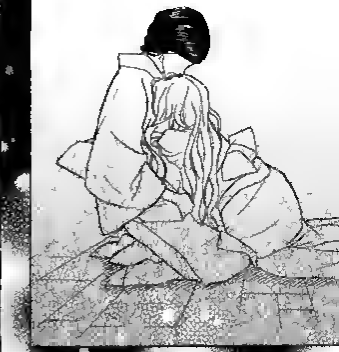
PUNISHING YOU FOR ALL THIS ...
ISNT GOING TO HELP ME ONE BIT ..!!
BUT ...
SHINO !
IDIOT ...

BUMP
AHH !
SAIZOU, YOU IDIOT ..!
SHINOBU


LORD,
I CAN'T GET UP
YOU COLLAPSED FROM EXCESSIVE LOSS OF BLOOD,
SERIOUSLY
JUST BE STILL

YOU'VE BEEN LYING ALL THIS WHILE
SO IM GUESSING YOU MUST BE FEELING GUILTY OVER IT
BUT YOU


AREN'T YOU JUST DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU WANT SHINO TO PUNISH YOU,
YOU WANT HER TO DETEST YOU IN HOPES OF ALLAYING YOUR GUILT, RIGHT ?



YOU SILLY
THUMP

LORD...
DID YOU ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING FROM THE START...?
SORT OF...
WAS IT SHOUKO-SAMA...?
AT LEAST DONT BETRAY HER FROM DEEP WITHIN YOUR HEART...
DON'T RUN AWAY, SAIZOU

PLEASE
DONT HATE SAIZOU
10 MONTHS AGO...
SAIZOU SAID THIS TO ME ...
SHOCK
"WHAT WAS IT THAT THE MISHIMA AND OKU FAMILY PARENTS FOUND OUT 12 YEARS AGO
WILL YOU TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ?
IF ONLY I HAD TOLD HIM THE TRUTH RIGHT THERE AND THEN,
YOU PROBABLY WOULDNT HAVE HAD TO SUFFER THROUGH ALL THIS ...

"I WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH WITHIN THE YEAR."
"SO YOU'LL AGREE TO TELL ME IF I WAIT?"
UN-FORTUNATELY,
I NEEDED MORE TIME ...!
TIME ...?
AFTER I PROMISED HIM THAT I WOULD,
SAIZOU ...

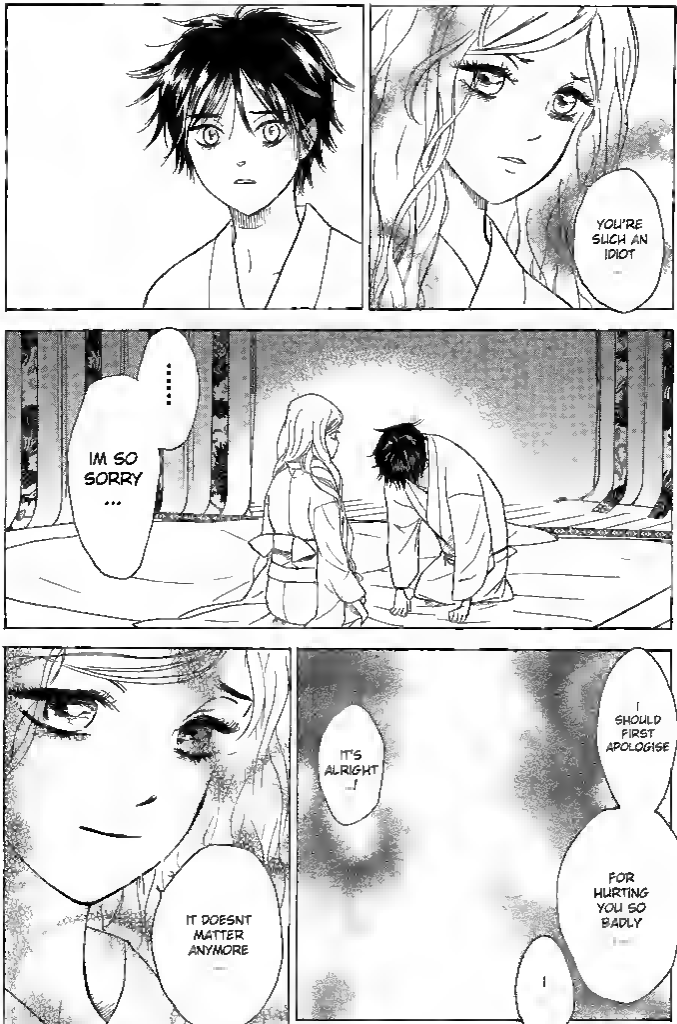
"ARE YOU SAYING ?"
ON TOP OF REVEALING YOSHITO'S PLAN TO ME
HE PROMISED HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PROTECT YOU FROM HARM
THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO GUARD HER ?
HE REVEALED TO ME,
THE MISHIMA FAMILY'S SCHEME ...
WHEN THESE UNEVITABLE EVENTS UNFOLD
EVEN IF HE WILL BE REVEALED AS A TRAITOR TO BOTH SIDES

HE WAS OKAY WITH IT ...
HE SAID IT WAS OKAY,
IF THERE WAS ANY WAY HE COULD PROTECT YOU HE WAS HAPPY TO DO IT ...
HE MADE A PROMISE ...
TO ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE ...
HE PROMISED TO COME AND SAVE YOU ...

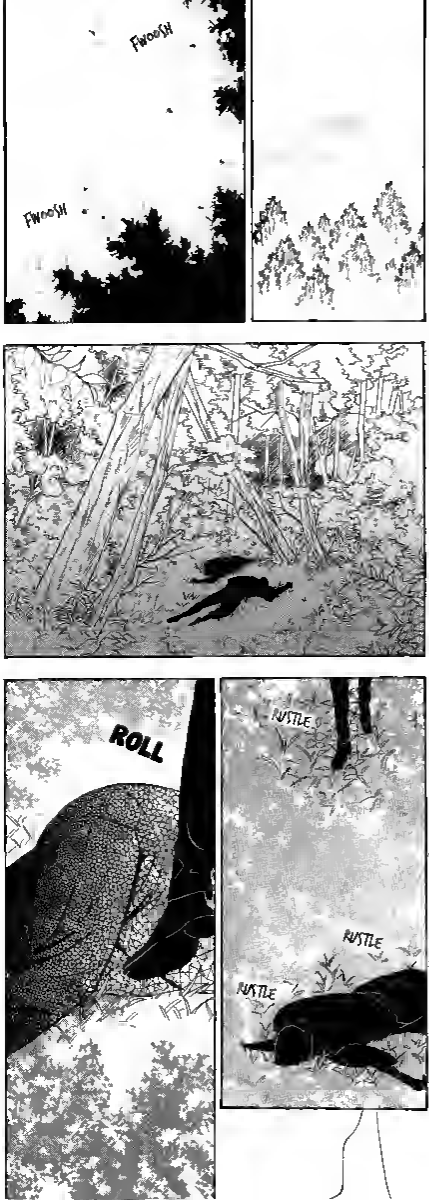
"SHE WILL SURELY CRY..."
"BECAUSE IF SHE WAS ALONE"
THAT'S WHY, IT IS OKAY ...

I AM SO THANKFUL FOR SAIZOU
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT ?
WEREN'T YOU,
ORIGINALLY AGAINST SHINO FALLING FOR SAIZOU ...?
I ALWAYS KNEW,
YOU WERE AFRAID OF SHINO GETTING HURT BY THIS
I AM THE ONE TO BLAME
FOR EVERYTHING

I AM READY TO RECEIVE ANY PUNISHMENT ...
DESERVING OF MY ACTIONS ...


YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT
.....
IM SO SORRY ...
I SHOULD FIRST APOLOGISE FOR HURTING YOU SO BADLY
I
IT'S ALRIGHT
IT DOESNT MATTER ANYMORE

SHINOBU -SAMA ?
HE SAID HE WAS OKAY WITH IT....


FWOOSH
FWOOSH
HE FORGAVE ME ...
ROLL
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

YUURI
IT MUST'VE BEEN CHIYO
WHOOSH
NOZOMI -SAMA ...
AREN'T THESE THE NINJAS WE SENT TO TAIL SHINOBU -SAMA ...?
I HAD SOME MEN STAY BEHIND ALONG THE COURSE OF THE PURSUIT,
IM GOING BACK TO REPORT THE SITUATION NOW
AND SAIZOU ...?
THEY REALLY DID US IN, THAT MAKES ALL TEN OF THEM
DID ANYONE EVEN SUCCEED IN TRAILING THEM ?
M8.

I AVOIDED A CRITICAL STRIKE.
JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO ...
IT WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY DIFFICULT TO LET THEM ESCAPE ON PURPOSE,
BUT IT WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH THANKS TO THE PRINCESS
LUCKILY THEY DIDN'T END UP DYING
NOW I SEE WHY THE OSHIRO FAMILY NEVER ABANDONED HER ALL THIS WHILE
YUURI
SHE TURNED OUT TO BE OF GREAT USE TO THEM HUH ?
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUNG MASTER SASUKE ?

.....
DID HE GET AWAY ?
OR DID YOU LET HIM GET AWAY ?
...

THE MASTER OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY,
HAS A BIRTHMARK, THE PATTERN OF A LARGE FLOWER ON HIS BACK
EACH SUCCESSOR TO THE OSHIRO FAMILY HAS THE SAME BIRTHMARK ON THEIR BACKS ...?
IT IS SAID THAT THEY ARE BORN WITH IT ...
REALLY ?
FATHER ?

THIS NEVER-ENDING CURSE PASSED ON THROUGH THE SUCCESORS OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY
AS A MEMBER OF AN ELITE NINJA CLAN, I HAVE TO PUT AN END TO THAT NEVER-ENDING CYCLE ...
DN!
AND I BELIEVE ...
THAT DOING SO IS ALSO A FORM OF LOYALTY ..

SHOCK

STARTLE
YOSHITO ...!
YUURI IS BACK WITH HIS REPORT ...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT ...?
HEY ...?
SHIGETO
"THIS NEVER-ENDING CURSE ..."
YEA
IM FINE ...